



## **FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

**[NOTICE 2019 -03]**

### **Price Index Adjustments for Contribution and Expenditure Limitations and Lobbyist Bundling Disclosure Threshold**

**AGENCY:** Federal Election Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of adjustments to contribution and expenditure limitations and lobbyist bundling disclosure threshold.

**SUMMARY:** As mandated by provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act (“the Act”), the Federal Election Commission (“the Commission”) is adjusting certain contribution and expenditure limitations and the lobbyist bundling disclosure threshold set forth in the Act, to index the amounts for inflation. Additional details appear in the supplemental information that follows.

**DATES:** The effective date for the limitation at 52 U.S.C. 30116(a)(1)(A) is November 7, 2018. The effective date for the limitations at 52 U.S.C. 30104(i)(3)(A), 30116(a)(1)(B), 30116(d) and 30116(h) is January 1, 2019.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Elizabeth S. Kurland, Information Division, 1050 First Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20463; (202) 694-1100 or (800) 424-9530.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Federal Election Campaign Act, 52 U.S.C. 30101-46, coordinated party expenditure limits (52 U.S.C. 30116(d)(3)), certain contribution limits (52 U.S.C. 30116(a)(1)(A) and (B), and (h)), and the disclosure threshold for contributions bundled by lobbyists (52 U.S.C. 30104(i)(3)(A)) are adjusted periodically to reflect changes in the consumer price index. *See* 52 U.S.C. 30104(i)(3),

30116(c); 11 CFR 109.32, 110.17(a), (f). The Commission is publishing this notice to announce the adjusted limits and disclosure threshold.

### **Coordinated Party Expenditure Limits for 2019**

Under 52 U.S.C. 30116(c), the Commission must adjust the expenditure limitations established by 52 U.S.C. 30116(d) (the limits on expenditures by national party committees, state party committees, or their subordinate committees in connection with the general election campaign of candidates for Federal office) annually to account for inflation. This expenditure limitation is increased by the percent difference between the price index, as certified to the Commission by the Secretary of Labor, for the 12 months preceding the beginning of the calendar year and the price index for the base period (calendar year 1974). 52 U.S.C. 30116(c).

#### *1. Expenditure Limitation for House of Representatives in States with More Than One Congressional District*

Both the national and state party committees have an expenditure limitation for each general election held to fill a seat in the House of Representatives in states with more than one congressional district. *See* 52 U.S.C. 30116(d)(3)(B). This limitation also applies to the District of Columbia and territories that elect individuals to the office of Delegate or Resident Commissioner.<sup>1</sup> *Id.* The formula used to calculate the expenditure limitation in such states and territories multiplies the base figure of \$10,000 by the difference in the price index (5.09279), rounding to the nearest \$100. *See* 52 U.S.C. 30116(c)(1)(B), (d)(3)(B); 11 CFR 109.32(b), 110.17. Based upon this formula, the

---

<sup>1</sup>.Currently, these are the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands. *See* <http://www.house.gov/representatives>.

expenditure limitation for 2019 general elections for House candidates in these states, districts, and territories is \$50,900.

*2. Expenditure Limitation for Senate and for House of Representatives in States with Only One Congressional District*

Both the national and state party committees have an expenditure limitation for a general election held to fill a seat in the Senate or in the House of Representatives in states with only one congressional district. *See* 52 U.S.C. 30116(d)(3)(A). The formula used to calculate this expenditure limitation considers not only the price index but also the voting age population (“VAP”) of the state. *Id.* The VAP figures used to calculate the expenditure limitations were certified by the U.S. Census Bureau. The VAP of each state is also published annually in the *Federal Register* by the U.S. Department of Commerce. 11 CFR 110.18. The general election expenditure limitation is the greater of: The base figure (\$20,000) multiplied by the difference in the price index, 5.09279 (which totals \$101,900); or \$0.02 multiplied by the VAP of the state, multiplied by 5.09279. Amounts are rounded to the nearest \$100. *See* 52 U.S.C. 30116(c)(1)(B), (d)(3)(A); 11 CFR 109.32(b), 110.17. The chart below provides the state-by-state breakdown of the 2019 general election expenditure limitations for Senate elections. The expenditure limitation for 2019 House elections in states with only one congressional district<sup>2</sup> is \$101,900.

**Senate General Election Coordinated Expenditure Limits – 2019 Elections**

State	Voting Age Population (VAP)	VAP x .02 x the price index (5.09279)	Senate Expenditure Limit (the greater of the amount in column 3 or \$101,900)
Alabama	3,798,031	\$386,900	\$386,900
Alaska	553,622	\$56,400	\$101,900
Arizona	5,528,989	\$563,200	\$563,200

<sup>2</sup> Currently, these states are: Alaska, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming. *See* <http://www.house.gov/representatives/>.

Arkansas	2,310,645	\$235,400	\$235,400
California	30,567,090	\$3,113,400	\$3,113,400
Colorado	4,430,329	\$451,300	\$451,300
Connecticut	2,837,472	\$289,000	\$289,000
Delaware	763,555	\$77,800	\$101,900
Florida	17,070,244	\$1,738,700	\$1,738,700
Georgia	8,013,724	\$816,200	\$816,200
Hawaii	1,117,077	\$113,800	\$113,800
Idaho	1,307,236	\$133,100	\$133,100
Illinois	9,883,814	\$1,006,700	\$1,006,700
Indiana	5,123,748	\$521,900	\$521,900
Iowa	2,425,378	\$247,000	\$247,000
Kansas	2,205,544	\$224,600	\$224,600
Kentucky	3,459,573	\$352,400	\$352,400
Louisiana	3,564,062	\$363,000	\$363,000
Maine	1,088,000	\$110,800	\$110,800
Maryland	4,702,570	\$479,000	\$479,000
Massachusetts	5,535,291	\$563,800	\$563,800
Michigan	7,831,247	\$797,700	\$797,700
Minnesota	4,308,564	\$438,900	\$438,900
Mississippi	2,280,389	\$232,300	\$232,300
Missouri	4,749,622	\$483,800	\$483,800
Montana	832,871	\$84,800	\$101,900
Nebraska	1,452,427	\$147,900	\$147,900
Nevada	2,345,395	\$238,900	\$238,900
New Hampshire	1,098,288	\$111,900	\$111,900
New Jersey	6,954,877	\$708,400	\$708,400
New Mexico	1,613,275	\$164,300	\$164,300
New York	15,474,107	\$1,576,100	\$1,576,100
North Carolina	8,082,975	\$823,300	\$823,300
North Dakota	581,379	\$59,200	\$101,900
Ohio	9,096,117	\$926,500	\$926,500
Oklahoma	2,986,593	\$304,200	\$304,200
Oregon	3,317,146	\$337,900	\$337,900
Pennsylvania	10,158,149	\$1,034,700	\$1,034,700
Rhode Island	852,102	\$86,800	\$101,900
South Carolina	3,978,182	\$405,200	\$405,200
South Dakota	664,629	\$67,700	\$101,900
Tennessee	5,263,790	\$536,100	\$536,100
Texas	21,303,746	\$2,169,900	\$2,169,900
Utah	2,228,643	\$227,000	\$227,000
Vermont	510,326	\$52,000	\$101,900
Virginia	6,647,893	\$677,100	\$677,100
Washington	5,872,306	\$598,100	\$598,100
West Virginia	1,441,672	\$146,800	\$146,800
Wisconsin	4,537,465	\$462,200	\$462,200
Wyoming	442,962	\$45,100	\$101,900

**Limitations on Contributions by Individuals, Non-Multicandidate Committees and Certain Political Party Committees Giving to U.S. Senate Candidates for the 2019-2020 Election Cycle**

The Act requires inflation indexing of: (1) The limitations on contributions made by persons under 52 U.S.C. 30116(a)(1)(A) (contributions to candidates) and 30116(a)(1)(B) (contributions to national party committees); and (2) the limitation on contributions made to U.S. Senate candidates by certain political party committees at 52 U.S.C. 30116(h). *See* 2 U.S.C. 30116(c). These contribution limitations are increased by multiplying the respective statutory contribution amount by 1.41818, the percent difference between the price index, as certified to the Commission by the Secretary of Labor, for the 12 months preceding the beginning of the calendar year and the price index for the base period (calendar year 2001). The resulting amount is rounded to the nearest multiple of \$100. *See* 52 U.S.C. 30116(c); 11 CFR 110.17(b). Contribution limitations shall be adjusted accordingly:

Statutory Provision	Statutory Amount	2019-2020 Limit
52 U.S.C. 30116(a)(1)(A)	\$2,000	\$2,800
52 U.S.C. 30116(a)(1)(B)	\$25,000	\$35,500
52 U.S.C. 30116(h)	\$35,000	\$49,600

The limitation at 52 U.S.C. 30116(a)(1)(A) is to be in effect for the two-year period beginning on the first day following the date of the general election in the preceding year and ending on the date of the next regularly scheduled election. Thus the \$2,800 figure above is in effect from November 7, 2018, to November 3, 2020. The limitations under 52 U.S.C. 30116(a)(1)(B) and 30116(h) shall be in effect beginning

January 1st of the odd-numbered year and ending on December 31st of the next even-numbered year. Thus the new contribution limitations under 52 U.S.C. 30116(a)(1)(B) and 30116(h) are in effect from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2020. *See* 11 CFR 110.17(b)(1).

### **Lobbyist Bundling Disclosure Threshold for 2019**

The Act requires certain political committees to disclose contributions bundled by lobbyists/registrants and lobbyist/registrant political action committees once the contributions exceed a specified threshold amount. 52 U.S.C. 30104(i)(1), (3)(A). The Commission must adjust this threshold amount annually to account for inflation. 52 U.S.C. 30104(i)(1). The disclosure threshold is increased by multiplying the \$15,000 statutory disclosure threshold by 1.24558, the difference between the price index, as certified to the Commission by the Secretary of Labor, for the 12 months preceding the beginning of the calendar year and the price index for the base period (calendar year 2006). The resulting amount is rounded to the nearest multiple of \$100. *See* 52 U.S.C. 30104(i)(3), 30116(c)(1)(B); 11 CFR 104.22(g). Based upon this formula ( $\$15,000 \times 1.24558$ ), the lobbyist bundling disclosure threshold for calendar year 2019 is \$18,700.

On behalf of the Commission,

Dated: February 4, 2019.

**Ellen L. Weintraub,**  
*Chair,*  
*Federal Election Commission.*

BILLING CODE: 6715-01-U

[FR Doc. 2019-01516 Filed: 2/6/2019 8:45 am; Publication Date: 2/7/2019]